USAID/BURMA

LOCAL WORKS

Working with USAID Missions to drive innovation and learning in locally led development.

Local Works is USAID's flagship locally led development program. Locally led development means local people take the lead in the development process, including priority-setting, decision-making, management, and more. Through Local Works, USAID Missions have more time and greater freedom to pursue locally led programming and innovative ways of working.

Since 2015, Local Works has supported locally led development programming in 24 countries. With a $50 million annual budget, Local Works provides five-year discretionary funding for USAID Missions to work directly with local and non-traditional partners.

ADVANCING THE JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE

Local ownership of the development process is essential to helping partner countries address their own development challenges. The role of USAID is to support and facilitate local ownership. This process - locally led development - takes time, patience, hard work, creativity, and flexibility. Local Works provides USAID Missions with the funding, flexibility, and technical support needed to work directly with local actors. Through Local Works, USAID Missions are engaging local communities and partners in a variety of ways: from listening tours, where USAID travels to communities to hold intentional, open, and respectful dialogues with local actors about their experiences and priorities, to "Whole System in the Room" workshops, where USAID convenes diverse local actors affected by a common issue to brainstorm and lead solutions. By engaging local communities and partners in a way that puts them in the lead to address local challenges, USAID is helping partner countries achieve self-reliance.

PROGRAM DETAILS

With Local Works funding, USAID Missions may:

- Develop and test flexible solutions to overcome operational challenges to advancing locally owned development within USAID
- Explore and use systems approaches to achieve sustainable outcomes with local actors
- Launch new programming that focuses on and tests approaches to local leadership and ownership
- Adapt existing programming to enable greater local ownership of the development process and improved results

To date, Local Works supports locally led development programming through 24 Missions: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burma, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Kosovo, Malawi, Morocco, North Macedonia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Vietnam, West Africa Regional, and Zimbabwe.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In the Dominican Republic, the region bordering Haiti has a much higher poverty rate than the rest of the country. This is contributing to crime and other illicit activities. By strengthening local organizations, Local Works programming seeks to reduce the crime that drives violence, instability, and other security threats that impact the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the United States. This process is informed and led by local actors, and USAID/Dominican Republic is also connecting local networks to national decisionmakers. This locally led approach will guide future USAID programming, as well as other donors interested in finding sustainable solutions to development challenges in the border region.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, the influx of nearly one million refugees resulting from the Rohingya humanitarian crisis into already impoverished communities in the district of Cox's Bazar has led to a complex emergency that has depleted environmental resources inside and outside of refugee camps. Local Works programming looks to address that. Through co-development of context-specific interventions with local actors, USAID/Bangladesh will support communities impacted by this crisis to sustainably rehabilitate natural resources and cultivate alternative livelihoods.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Through Local Works, USAID Missions support joint learning with local partners. In 2019, Missions reported that:

- **97%** of local organizations receiving capacity development demonstrated improved performance
- **$995,000** mobilized from non-donor resources for sustainable development
- **100%** of the 15 active locally led development activities achieved their intended results for the year